(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister also urged that there is a need to generate awareness and use it as an effective antidote to the virus till a medical solution is developed; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Scientists in developing AIDS vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c)The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 4th December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to promote and accelerate the efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV-1 subtype C, predominant in India.

The Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based HIV vaccine is in developing stage involving innumerable complex and complicated steps. The MVA has not reached the stage of clinical trial Scientists from National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata are involved in this work.

An advisory group including people living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs and several experts, especially those working on gender has been constituted. The advisory group will advise Government in all aspects of vaccine development and access such as: ethics of clinical trials; gender and human rights issues; information dissemination; development of guidelines and protocols to address stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS infected persons.

Revision of list of medicines

2693. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that list of medicines for purchase is prepared by his Ministry after every five years or so;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such a list was prepared in the year 1998 which should have lasted for five years;

(c) if so, what prompted Government to revise the list of medicines before the expiry of five years;

(d) whether this matter has been referred to the C.B.I, for investigation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether it is proposed to do so now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The list of medicines, which is called formulary is prepared for bulk procurement of medicines by the Government. It may have a particular period of validity. It is not correct that such lists are prepared after every five years.

(b) The list prepared in 1998 had got the validity of only two years, though it was extended later because of the non-finalisation of the new formulary.

(c)The question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e)The question does not arise.

Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Plan

2694. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce a Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance plan for persons below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the new plan is likely to be put in place;

(d) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to other sections of the population including senior citizens; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?